

18 Aug

No.22

the Dragon and the Lamb

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Deadline for all games is TUESDAY, 12 SEPT.

Well, bloodfans, here we are with another exciting issue of guts and gore. As most of you know by now, Skylab is back to routine things and so am I. I didn't realize until now that, when it comes to Skylab, NASA considers me irreplaceable.

Now, being the shrewd fellow that I am, I pointed this out to the NASA brass and stated that an irreplaceable fellow should certainly make more money. Well, the very next day I got a call from Washington saying, "Steve, we couldn't buy another man like you at ANY price". Which is the D.C. way of saying "tough luck" I threatened to walk out, quit. But the soothing voice at the other end said simply, "Well, good luck Stevie old boy. I know you'll make it big out there. Why, there must be several hundred companies out there who would just fall all over themselves to be the first in line to hire a Skylab expert".

The conversation ended on that note, and I realized once again that I had been left holding the joker.

I can see right now that this will probably be my longest issue ever (have to make up for last one, right?). In this issue will be the year 1901 of DragonFire with the commentary from Mark Berch. Also, I have been asked by several people to reprint two articles I wrote some time ago in these pages, the first of which appears here. The Bernie Oaklyn/Buddy Tretick/Rod Walker nonsense will be addressed in this issue with emphasis on Bernie's side of the story (since no one else seems willing to print it).

But most importantly, you will find seven (choke) games in this issue. You will hear the wails, the screams, the knashing of teeth. You will see the ripped-open backs, the buckets of blood, the mangled and broken bodies. And all for your pleasure, dear humble reader. So pour a glass of milk, sit down, make yourself comfy.....and turn the page.

DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allen B. Calhamer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill Corporation, 4517 Hartford Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21214.

1978??

DragonFire

Spring, 1901

NOBODY ATTACKS ANYBODY YET, BUT IS
ENGLAND IN FOR A HARD TIME???

AUSTRIA (Randy Swords) : A Bul-Ser, F Tri-Alb, A Vie-Tri

ENGLAND (Bill Schiwautz) : F Lon-Nth, F Edi-Nwg, A Lpl-Edi

FRANCE (George Pyfrom) : F Bre-Mid, A Par-Pic, A Mar-H

GERMANY (Marck Morrison) : A Mun-Ruh, A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Hol

ITALY (Bob Sergeant) : A Ven-H, A Rom-Apu, F Nap-Ion

RUSSIA (Pat Carson) : F Sev-Rum, F StP(sc)-GoB, A Mos-StP, A War-Ukr

TURKEY (Mark Krauser) : NMR! Neutral orders used per HRs. A Con-Bul, F Ank-Con,
A Smy-Ank

Fall, 1901

AUSTRIA: A Ser-Bul, F Alb-Gre, A Tri-Ser. Owns Home, Ser (4). Builds A Bud.

ENGLAND: A Edi-Nwy, F Nth-Den, F Nwg C A Edi-Nwy. Owns Home, Nwy (4). Builds F Lon.

FRANCE : A Mar-Spa, F Mid-Por, A Pic-Bel. Owns Home, Spa, Por (5). Builds
A Par, A Mar.

GERMANY: A Kie-Den, A Ruh-Bel, F Hol (S) A Ruh-Bel. Owns Home, Hol, Bel (5)
Builds A Mun, F Ber.

ITALY : A Ven-H, A Apu-Tun, F Ion C A Apu-Tun. Owns Home, Tun (4). Builds F Nap.

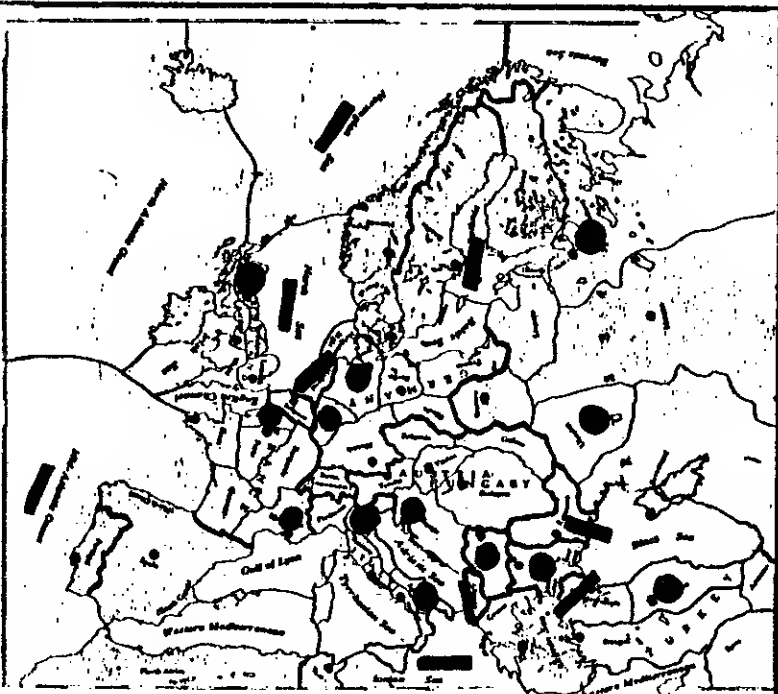
RUSSIA : F Rum-Bul, F GoB-Swe, A Ukr-Rum, A StP-Fin Owns Home, Swe, Rum (6).
Builds F StP(nc), A War.

TURKEY : A Bul-Gre, F Con-Aeg, A Ank-Con. Owns Home, Bul (4). Builds A Ank.

Spring, 1902 orders are due by the deadline date.

Spring, 1901

Fall, 1901



DragonFire Press

London: From his balcony the Prime Minister surveyed the crowd below. With a smile on his lips he exulted, "My fellow Britons, I promise you Peace, Prosperity and Security. Now and Forever". Later that afternoon in the House of Commons a vote of no-confidence quickly removed him from office. The new Prime Minister quickly reflected, "In view of the Hard Times ahead, it's a wonder that there was indeed a crowd to listen to that creep!"

Commentary from Mark Berch

Spring, 1901: Will There Be War?

What a dull opening! Obviously, the players have conspired to make things more difficult for me by doing practically nothing. Sitting most pretty at this point is Russia. G, A, and T have all moved away from him. His A Mos-StP, the only belligerent move on the board, puts him in a good position to move on England, who now seems very unlikely to get a second build, whereas Russia has two builds guaranteed. F Bla-Rum indicates the fact that some diplomacy must have been going on between him and Turkey, raising the possibility that Turkey's NMR is deliberate, as the latter tries to gain some camouflage for his Russian alliance. The Italian moves are unsurprising, given the publically expressed antipathy that Sergeant has expressed for Turkey (the country, not Krauser). As for France I've seen others do it, but I don't see the charm of A Mar-H. A Spa can defend Mar just as thoroughly as A Mar, with the chance of a build to boot. If A Ven-Pie had occurred, then France would have looked very silly indeed. As for England, A Mos-StP has apparently caught him by surprise, OR, he was very sure of a French alliance. Fall should tell.

Fall, 1901: Confusion in Bulgaria? Or is there? Commentator is confused!

Austria is a good place to start with an odd situation: All three Austrian pieces were foiled by a single move, A Bul-Gre by Turkey. A Ser-Bul is a pointless and Greece-risking move, unless Rus F Rum (S) Aus A Ser-Bul is assured--and it didn't come. I might add that Austria could have had two builds, Ser and Bul, if only he hadn't gotten greedy and tried for three with F Alb-Gre. As it is, he gets only one. Such a scheme would have required that Rus F Rum stay put (or go to the Bla). But that was not to be. F Rum-Bul would succeed only if there were support. But it would be idiotic for Austria to promise such support to Russia and then make a move that would require Russian support to succeed. Thus, either there was a massive communications foulup, OR, F Rum-Bul was done to try to confuse Austria and to prevent A Ser-Bul, F Alb-H from giving Greece to Turkey and taking Bulgaria.

In the West, England has totally ignored A Mos-StP and stood Germany out of Den with a failed attack. Not only did this risk Nwy by not supporting himself in, but he has antagonized the one country who could give him a hand in Scandinavia, Germany. Further, with no Ger A Den in Sp 02 to cut Russian support, England faces a triple attack on Nwy in the Spring, with no way to both support the piece and bring a fourth unit into play. Given that England had decided not to move into Nwy with support, a move to Bar (or Ska) would have been more effective. I assume that it was not done because of a desire to remain on good terms with France. Time will tell if that was the right decision, but England cannot both fight Germany and defend Nwy.

Another man with a Sp 02 decision is Italy. If he turns on Austria, then Randy will be the first out of the game. But unless he holds the mortgage on Pat Carson's home, that's an awfully risky choice. I predict that he'll insist on, and get, Greece. If this I-A forms, then both East and West will hinge on the strength of the I-F alliance.

Winter, 1901: Turkey and France Snub Admirals

The build of A Ank was quite unexpected and, to me, inexplicable, or at best indecisive. Attacking Russia without a fleet is rather quixotic. It is of course not anti-Italian; that would be F Smy. If he is headed for the Balkans and Austria, then A Smy is correct. That build would have allowed A Bul (S) A Smy-Gre, with A Con (S) A Bul as a guard against Russian treachery, and would have rendered F Ion-Aeg impotent (whereas if he does F Aeg (S) A Bul-Gre, F Ion-Aeg cuts the support). The East will be dominated by 1) strength of I-A and 2) Who gets Gre?

1978?? Apocolypse Spring, 1901

AUSTRIA (Tom Sherwood) : F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Gal
ENGLAND(Roger Kazakiewicz): F Edi-Nth, A Lpl-Yor, F Lon-Eng
FRANCE (Dwayne Shreve) : F Bre-Mid, A Par-Pic, A Mar-Spa
GERMANY (Lee Kendter,Sr.) : F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh
ITALY (John Machir) : A Ven-Pie, F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Nap
RUSSIA (Fred Zornow) : F StP(sc)-GoB, A Mos-StP, F Sev-Bla, A War-Ukr
TURKEY (Glenn Ledder) : A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con, F Ank-Bla

I would like to welcome Tom, Roger, Dwayne, and Glenn to this rag. Hope you guys enjoy your stay.

-----APOCALYPSE-----PRESS-----

--Burton Hillis

ITALO/TURKS SEND LIMEYS REELING IN THE SOUTH! GERMAN FUNERAL LOOMS!!

ENGLAND(Mark Zimmerman): F Spa(sc) (S) F Mid(r/Por,OTB), F Bre (S) F Mid, A Ruh-Mun, F Mid (S) F Spa(sc), A Bel-Ruh, A Hol-Kie, A Nwy-StP, F Den (S) A Hol-Kie, F Bal (S) Russian A Pru-Ber, A Yor-Nwy, F Nth C A Yor-Nwy

FRANCE (Don Ditter) : A Bur (S) English A Ruh-Mun

GERMANY (Bob Sergeant) : F Kie (S) A Ber(r/Hel,OTB), A Ber (S) F Kie(anni), A Mun (S) F Kie

ITALY (Jerry Rogowski): F Mar (S) Turkish F Wes-Spa(sc), A Pie (S) F Mar, F Lyo (S) Turkish F Wes-Spa(sc), F NAF-Mid

RUSSIA (John McElvaney): A War r/Pru. A Pru-Ber, A Mos-War(anni), A Lvn (S) A Mos-War

TURKEY(Lee Kendter,Sr.): F Wes-Spa(sc), F Tyr-Wes, F Ion-Tyr, F Adr-Ion, A Bud-Vie, A Sil (S) German A Mun, A Gal (S) A War, A War (S) A Sev-Mos, A Ukr (S) A Sev-Mos, A Sev-Mos, F Bla-Con

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

1908

ENGLAND:(12) Home,Nwy,Bel,Por,~~Spa~~,Hol,
Swe,~~Mar~~,Bre,Kie,~~Den~~,~~StP~~
BUILD 1

FRANCE :(1) Par EVEN

GERMANY:(1) Mun,~~Ber~~,~~Den~~ REMOVE 1

ITALY :(5) Home,Tun,~~Mar~~ BUILD 1

RUSSIA :(1) ~~Mos~~,~~War~~,~~StP~~,~~Ber~~ REMOVE 2

TURKEY :(14) Home,Bul,Gre,Ser,Tri,Bud,
Sev,Rum,Vie,~~War~~,~~Mos~~,~~Spa~~
BUILD 3

Winter,1908 and Spring,1909 orders are due by the deadline date, but if someone would like a separation of seasons I certainly will go along with it.

Webster to Mark Zimmerman: A workshop on sources of gravitational radiation??
Hmmm....



TAX DOLLARS FOR PEACE???

Two bills now pending in Congress (HR 4896 and S 880) would allow taxpayers to designate their tax dollars for world peace instead of military spending. If such a measure becomes law, dollars earmarked for peace (via a check mark on the tax return form) would go to a fund administered by 11 persons who have demonstrated a commitment to world peace. The fund's resources would be aimed at projects to eliminate world hunger, find non-military solutions to international conflict and encourage other non-violent activities that might prevent war. It still amazes me to see that people think that money can solve everyone's problems

1977CQ

Thermopylae

Spring, 1908

LIMEYS GET KICKED AROUND AS GERMANY BLUNDERS OUT! AUSTRIA CONTINUES TO ROLL!!

AUSTRIA (Don Ditter) : Refuses builds, plays 2 short. F Con-Bla, F Ion-Eas, A Bul-Con, F Aeg (S) A Bul-Con, A Sev-Arm, A Rum-Gal, A Tyo (S) A Mun, A Ruh-Hol, A Mun (S) French A Ber-Kie, A StP-Fin, A Mos-StP, A Lvn (S) A Mos-StP

ENGLAND (John Sokol) : F StP(nc) r/Nwy. F Nwy-H, A Lpl-H, A Kie-H(r/Den,OTB), F Hol (S) A Kie, A Bel-H, F Nth (S) A Bel, F Gas-Mid, F Eng (S) F Gas-Mid, F Lon-Wal

FRANCE (Marck Morrison): F Mid-Iri, F NAT (S) F Mid-Iri, F Wes-Mid, A Pic-Bel, F Spa(sc) (S) F Wes-Mid, A Ber-Kie, A Bur (S) A Pic-Bel, F Bre (S) F Wes-Mid, A Par (S) F Bre

GERMANY (Fred Zornow) : NRR! A Kie-Den(nsu) (OUT!)

TURKEY (Vic Carpenter): Builds A Smy. A Smy-Ank, A Arm (S) A Smy-Ank

The French/Austrian draw was defeated: Austria=No, England=Yes, France=Yes, Turkey=Yes(no vote received counting as Yes). The game marches on.

Fall, 1908 orders are due by the deadline date. Temporary COA: Vic Carpenter, 912 112th St. South, Apt. 5, Parkland, Washington 98444

THE INFAMOUS FUED!!!

In EVERYTHING, issue #39, Cal White printed this letter from Rod Walker:

"I'm not much given to doing much in the hobby these days, due to lack of time. However, something has crossed my desk which looks bad. I felt the word should be spread, so here it is.

There has been a recent announcement in one zine, and perhaps more than one, that a postal Diplomacy zine named LA GUERRE was being started up by a Bernie Oaklyn, 781 Quince Orchard Blvd, #12, Gaithersburg, Md 20760. The conclusion is that "Bernie Oaklyn" either is Buddy Tretick or is a front for him.

For most of you I need say no more.

For those of you who were not around in the period 1968-71, let me elucidate.

Buddy Tretick was probably the least desirable GM ever to hit the hob-

by. As GM, he is known to have rewritten players' orders, play in his own games (both under his own name and under a pseudonym), make rulings directly contrary to all of the rulebooks, and in other ways behave in an erratic and irrational manner towards his games and players.

It should also be noted that Tretick has abandoned a large number of games. That's nothing new, of course; but those of us who have dropped games at least had the decency not to start new ones at the same time. During 1969-71, however, Buddy dropped his active games repeatedly, with no explanation or repayment, and went on to start new ones...which were, in turn, abandoned.

(cont'd on pg.7)



Fall, 1906

RUSSIA (Clyde Hayman) : F Pru-Ber, F Bla-Rum

"An old time magazine has just put in a reappearance, and under circumstances which require us to issue a warning. The magazine is LA GUERRE, formerly run by one Buddy Tretick of the Washington, D.C. area, now published by a "Bernie Oaklyn". There is a good deal of mystery around this situation; substantial evidence exists, though Mr. Tretick denies it, that Oaklyn and Tretick are the same person. One thing is certain (and Tretick does admit this); one person or two, Oaklyn and Tretick are closely associated. And this means that we feel the hobby ought to be aware and informed of the past history of LA GUERRE in its older guise. Buddy Tretick was generally acknowledged to be one of the worst gamesmasters in postal history. Reams of uncorrected or ignored errors, "losing"

1977FL

Cynoscephalae

Spring, 1907

KAISER PULLS SNEAKY ON ITALY WHILE RUSSO-TURKS SLEDGE IT OUT!!!!

AUSTRIA (Bob Sergeant) : Removes F Tun. A Sil-War

ENGLAND(Marck Morrison): F Nth r/Ska. F Lon (S) Italian F Mid-Eng(nso),
F Nwg-Nth, F Ska-Swe

GERMANY (John Sokol) : F Nth C A Hol-Yor, F Eng (S) F Nth, F Den (S) F Nth,
A Hol-Yor, A Gas (S) A Bur-Mar, A Bur-Mar, A Mun-Bur,
A Tyo-Ven

ITALY (Clyde Hayman) : Builds A Ven. F Mid-Spa(sc), F Apu-Ion, F Ion-Gre,
A Mar (S) F Mid-Spa(sc)(r/Pie,OTB), A Ven-Tri,
A Tri-Alb, F Adr (S) A Tri-Alb

RUSSIA (John Machir) : A StP-Nor(inv), A Nor-Swe(inv), A Ukr (S) A Rum,
A Vie-Bud, A Gal (S) A Vie-Bud, A Rum (S) A Gal-Bud,
A Sev (S) A Rum, F Arm-H(u/o)

TURKEY (Mark Berch) : F Con-Ank, F Bla (S) F Con-Ank, A Bul-Rum, F Alb-Gre,
A Ser (S) A Bud, A Bud (S) Italian A Tri(otm),
F Aeg (S) F Alb-Gre

Sorry, John. But the House Rules do say that "Nor" is not accepted as an abbreviation. You had been warned about this before.

Fall, 1907 orders are due by the deadline date.

-----1977FL Press-----

Ankara:The Search for the West Coast, Part VIII. "Floyd, I think this time we're really going to have to head for the West Coast. I've been studying the maps. As long as the Russians want to stay dug in, it's going to be a long, boring war. We're in pretty good shape out there, and so is he."

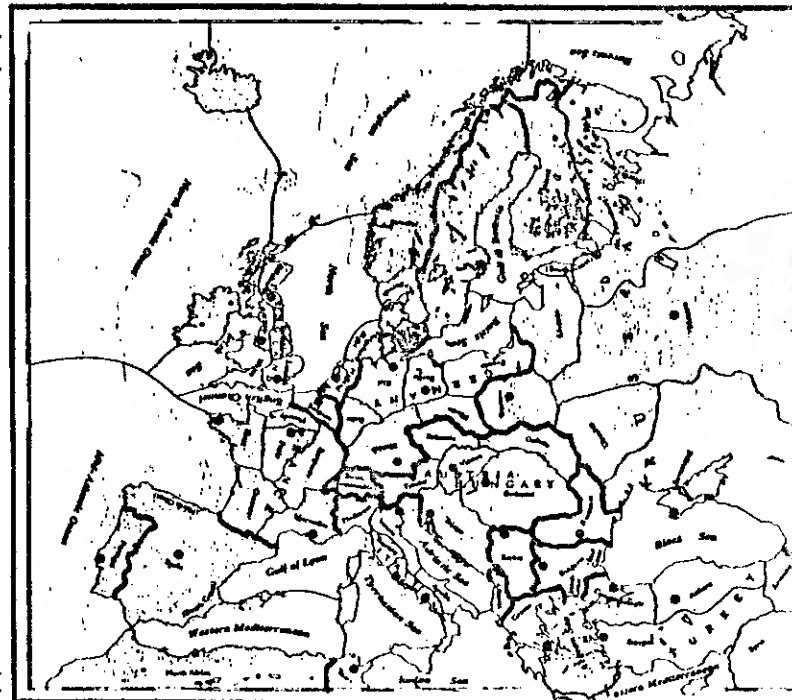
"But Pink, we're not fighters, we're important Exportan' Men."

"Right. Our chips are all cashed in. I visited the do-dah man, and we've got a camper filled with 1160 kilos of prime Turkish hash. It's just the thing for bored soldiers. We're off to the west coast of Armenia!"

The Infamous Fued(cont'd from pg.7):

players' orders, missing issues, grossly erratic schedules, and general sloppiness were the rule. Worst of all in our opinion, Tretick was the only games-master in the history of the hobby to abandon games in progress and yet continue to publish and start new games! Now, maybe things have changed. After all, there are plenty of reputable people in this hobby (the editor of DW included) who have done such things as folding a magazine only to reappear later. But most such people make efforts to clean up their debts and straighten out their reputations. Tretick has not done this. Until we have substantial proof that there is a "new era" of LA GUERRE at hand, DIPLOMACY WORLD feels compelled to warn you to stay as far away as possible from Tretick, Oaklyn, and their games".

(cont'd on Pg.)



1977KQ

Apollyon

Spring, 1904

TURKS STAMPEDE THROUGH MEDITERRANEAN AS WEST CONTINUES INTERNAL TURMOIL!!!

AUSTRIA (Vic Carpenter): A Ven r/Tus, removes F Gre. A Gal-War, A Tyo-Ven,
A Tus + A Tri (S) A Tyo-Ven, A Bud-Vie

ENGLAND (George Pyfrom): F Nth r/Edi. F Lpl-Iri, F Lon-Eng, F StP(nc)-Nwy,
F Edi-Nth

FRANCE (Pat Carson) : A Mar-Spa, A Bel (S) German A Hol(otm), A Pic (S) A Bel,
F Bre-Eng, F Iri-Wal, A Pie-Mar

GERMANY(John Wolfskill): Builds A Ber. A Hol-Ruh, A Mun-Ruh, A Ber-Pru,
A Swe-Fin, F Nth-Nwg, F Nwy (S) F Nth-Nwg, F Den-Nth

ITALY (Lee Kendter, Sr.): A Ven-H, A Rom + F Adr (S) A Ven

RUSSIA (Jerry Rogowski): A War-Ukr(r/Lvn, Sil, OTB), A Mos-Sev

TURKEY (Clyde Hayman) : Builds F Smy. A Ukr (S) Austrian A Gal-War, A Sev-Mos,
F Tun-Wes, F Ion-Tyr, F Aeg-Ion, F Con-Aeg, F Smy-Eas

Thanks to Craig Reges for submitting standby orders for Austria, though they were not needed. Temporary COA: Vic Carpenter, 912 112th St. South, Apt. 5, Parkland, Washington 98444

Fall, 1904 orders are due by the deadline date. Last issue the French A Pie was not listed. Actually, it was unordered and thus held.

-----1977KQ PRESS-----

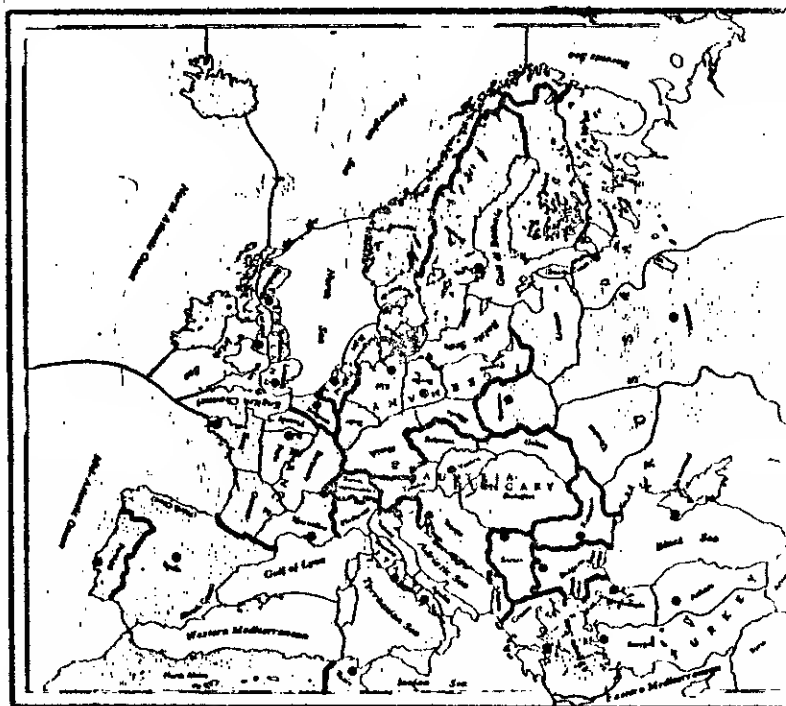
London: The Prime Minister, in a recently concluded press conference, admitted English forces were being battered by a combination of "old friends and enemies". He pledged to fight to the last and called upon all Englishmen to stand together in the face of adversity. He hinted that help would soon take some pressure off the English armed forces but would not elaborate further as he concluded, "secret negotiations are still ongoing."

Pasadena: Remember, guys, there is a player representing Germany in this game. You know, those obstinate people with the spiked helmets. Well, the point of all this is to remind you that the Kaiser enjoys a little diplomatic chit-chat now and then. Come on, guys! You haven't written to me for four months!

Rome to Vienna: Care to discuss the situation?

A parking space is an area that disappears while you are making a u-turn.

The human brain is a wonderful organ; of course this opinion is held by the human brain.



The Infamous Feud(cont'd from pg.8):

And now, here is Bernie Oaklyn's side of the story.

A Letter to all Postal Diplomacy Gamesmasters:

Don Miller, who is known to all of you, has introduced me to the notorious Buddy Tretick, former gamesmaster, editor, and publisher of LA GUERRE, a postal Diplomacy gameszine.

Don's introduction was solely by reference. But, I did find Buddy in Potomac, Maryland.

Buddy regrets having abandoned his efforts in this field but both his new employer and starting his own business made far too many demands on his time and energy.

Now, I have his permission to use the name LA GUERRE, and to foster the games designed by Buddy and Calhamer.

I will make no attempt to renew orphan games or otherwise pick up the pieces of Budd's life.

To wit: there are now game openings in LA GUERRE, A Media for Postal Diplomacy; therefore, I would ask you to publish this letter for the benefit of the Diplomacy world.

Volume VI, Issue 1, will be published under my name. Interested players should request Houserules and Game Rules. All games designed by Buddy have received copyrights.

Cordially yours,

Bernie Oaklyn, P.O.Box 34310, Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Dear Editor:

This letter was sent addressed to Don Horton with a complaint about discrimination. It is requested that you publish this letter so that other Diplomacy players might know that discrimination does exist in postal Diplomacy.

Dear Don:

I am personally ashamed of you. You have contributed to discrimination, and you have allowed Rod Walker to do so in your own 'zine.

I am just as qualified to play in any game as any other player in Diplomacy.

Further, I am tired of this accusation and innuendo that Bernie Oaklyn and Buddy Tretick are one in the same persons.

I say to you, Sir, prove your accusations now, or shut your mouth. What right do you, Mr. Rodney Walker, have to accuse me of anything? And, suppose himself, Buddy Tretick signed up for a game you were Gamesmaster for, why would you deny him as a player. After all, would you feel that he would mess up your game or something.

I call on Don Horton to reinstate me in that game, as I was one of the first to sign for it. And, if not, I call on the players in that game to boycott it for reasons of discrimination.

Damn you, Rod. I am not Buddy Tretick, nor am I going to constantly take a beating for some 'THING' you and he have for each other. Be good, boy, or I will sic Charles Reinsel on you. But, then, that would be boy getting boy, wouldn't it?

Clean up your houserules, Don Horton. You opened a game, and I signed for it. Now, let me play.

After all, all Rod can do as GM is enforce his rules on me. That can not possibly hurt me. And it will be Bernie Oaklyn he will be enforcing his rules on, not Buddy Tretick. Get that straight for a change, and knock off this insanity.

By the way, is Rod Walker really Leroy the Boy?

Signed: Bernie Oaklyn, 13412 Brackley Terrace, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 (301) 384-0707 (301) 384-1432

... the Dragon and the Lamb

The following letter was written by Bernie Oaklyn and sent to Jim Benes after Jim had published a similar "warning" in his zine, DIPPY:

July 18, 1978

Jim Benes
417 South Stough Street
Hinsdale
IL 60521

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor of DIPPY:

Your issue Number 9, dated July 16, 1978, page 1, refers. In that issue you make a rather vague statement in referring to a 'warning' published in DIPLOMACY WORLD about the gamezine entitled "LA GUERRE".

However, your statement is one of innuendo in that it does not give particulars about the so-called 'warning'.

I would like to take this time to give those particulars and request that you publish this letter in all fairness to me.

First of all, Rod Walker was somewhat of a friend of the legendary person named Buddy Tretick, one time publisher of the Diplomacy gamezine entitled "LA GUERRE". Rod was so much of a friend and supporter of Buddy's that Rod himself gave Buddy his support in getting Buddy elected as President of the National Science Fiction Fan Federation, Diplomacy Division (I think I have that name right).

However, shortly after Buddy became elected, having received the votes of Don Miller, Rod Walker, and Len Lakofka, in part, Buddy decided that he, and I have this from Buddy's own lips and am quoting him with his permission, would not tolerate Rod Walker's dictatorial regime any longer, and Buddy wrote, and published in his 'zine, his 'succession from the Union', and further, started blasting Rod Walker in his zine, LA GUERRE.

From that point on, both he and Rod produced so much paper that stock in the Post Office rose three points.

This, of course, was the onset of a private feud between Buddy and Rod.

Now, along comes I, Bernie Oaklyn, moving to Potomac, Maryland, and badly in need of a see-to-face diplomacy game. I telephoned around and was referred to Don Miller, who, himself, referred me to Buddy Tretick (who could not have been all that bad if Don Miller, an old timer in Diplomacy, referred me to himself).

I looked buddy up in the local telephone directory and visited with Buddy at his home.

During our many subsequent visits, Buddy discussed his feud with Rod Walker in very much detail.

I had later decided to run a gamezine of my own, and like very much the simple variants that Buddy had once published, and decided that I would like to run those types of games. So I obtained Buddy's permission to run the games which he had copyrights to, and looked around for a little.

Not being very good at titles, Buddy had to suggest one to me, and suggested that I even use his old title, LA GUERRE, and I thought that would be fun, so I did.

No sooner than I went to press did Rod Walker blow up. Why,, LA GUERRE in operation again? Never! Says Rod! And his horn started blowing once again. Why Rod Rose from his very grave to blast out against Buddy, simply because Buddy would not bend to Rod every time Rod said bend.

Worse than that, Rod started accusing Bernie Oaklyn of being Buddy Tretick.

Now, what could be more absurd than that? Certainly Buddy is his own man. And, most certainly, I am my own man.

Shortly, after I started publishing, Buddy appeared at a face to face Diplomacy game in Baltimore.

Now, I am tired of this horse. I surely feel that an apology is due me by all of you who have published words on a page without bothering to get the facts first.

The fact is, sir, that I am not Buddy Tretick, and I am not responsible for anything Buddy might have done (and I say right!) years ----years in the past.

In fact, I am responsible only for what I do. And, in fact, I am the only one responsible for what goes in my gamezine. And, in fact, Buddy Tretick is not responsible for what goes into my gamezine.

Since you published your statement on your 'yellow pages', in the Diplomacy section of your gamezine, I ask you now to publish this letter to the editor in that same section, with referral in your white pages. I feel that you owe me this much, if not much more because of the shadow you have cast on my person.

What's more, I can show you many letters from fellow Diplomacy players who have given very favorable comment on the quality of my zine, and some of those players date way back in this game of postal diplomacy.

And, you, Sir, have the prerogative of commenting on my gamezine yourself, without being led by some 'ancient God!' named Rod Walker. And, further, I am sending you a deposit ticket from my personal bank account, which of course has my name on it. Certainly the bank has received positive proof that I am Bernie Oaklyn and not Buddy Tretick!

So now you have both sides of the story. Bernie Oaklyn has since changed the name of his zine to the Front de Liberation du Diplomacy. During the past several weeks I have read in many zines the "warning" written by publishers, all of which seem to stem from Rod Walker's original letter in EVERYTHING. Nowhere have I seen a publisher print Oaklyn's comments.

Now, I am not going to take sides in this issue. Indeed, from the comments so far no one has proved which allegations are true and which are simply heresay. It would seem to me that the issue could be settled easily enough as there are bound to be people who know both Buddy Tretick and Bernie Oaklyn, if indeed they are two separate entities.

But my beef is with DIPLOMACY WORLD and the way it has conducted itself during this fiasco. DIPLOMACY WORLD stated,...."substantial evidence exists...." and even Rod Walker's letter says"I have it on good authority...." DIPLOMACY WORLD, is this all the evidence you need to print such a diatribe against a publisher? Where is your substantial evidence that you mentioned? I would think that a publication of stature as is DIPLOMACY WORLD, with over 800 readers, should investigate a little more thoroughly before "blackballing" a publisher.

I do not know if Bernie Oaklyn and Buddy Tretick are one in the same person. The evidence printed so far certainly does not prove either case. But to all of you publishers out there who are jumping on the bandwagon and printing a "warning", why are you unwilling to print what Oaklyn has to say in defense of himself? After all, it would only be common courtesy.

THOUGHT FOR JULY 4TH: A real patriot is a guy who gets a parking ticket and rejoices that the system works.

--Bill Vaughan

The Stars: Can We Learn? *by Steve McLendon*

There has been much talk about the money this nation spends on space exploration, most of it negative. Most people seem to think that NASA's budget rivals that of HEW or the Defense Department. The military budget has always been on the increase and is now resting at just over 120 billion dollars. The NASA budget, on the other hand, reached a peak of 4.9 billion during the glory years of Apollo and is now around 3.6 billion dollars. If the space exploration critics have their way it will drop even lower.

We have put men on the moon, actually landed an Earth vehicle on Mars, sent probes to the different planets and even beyond this solar system, and erected large deep space telescopes and antennas not only to learn more about distant stars and galaxies, but to also "listen" for other sentient beings that may exist in our universe.

Since I work for NASA and have been actively involved with every manned space flight since Apollo XII, I have been the recipient of a large number of questions about our motives. "Knowledge and exploration are important, but surely they are not worth billions!", "Why outer space, why don't we solve our problems here on Earth first before we start spending money for this?", are two of the most frequent questions, and it is this issue that I would like to address.

I indeed agree that not all problems on Earth have been solved. After several thousand years of existence on this planet, the human species is still bedevilled by unanswered questions that make life less rewarding than it ought to be. The most important of these questions have less to do with technology than with behavior and philosophy.

Certainly it would be nice to know whether extra-terrestrial civilizations have been able to utilize forms of energy as yet unknown to earthly intelligence or to eliminate what we regard as incurable diseases, to mention only two of our current and ongoing tangible problems. But it is only a matter of time before the human brain will develop new sources of energy--whether from the Sun, tides, winds, fuel cells, hydrogen, or whatever--and also discover cures for all diseases. These, after all, are transient matters of a type that has yielded to human scientific intelligence in the past. Far more persistent and baffling, however, are the abstract problems--the values of life and the way people treat one another. We are still largely illiterate in the knowledge of human relationships.

If other galaxies have civilizations that are unmarked by brutality and violence, it would be useful to know how this came about. The inhumanity of humans to one another continues to be the most serious problem on Earth. Overt slavery has been abolished, but exploitation of large numbers of humans by their fellow creatures seemingly knows no end. It would be useful to know whether other sentient creatures have been able to develop a philosophy of living that sees life as the highest value. Also, whether they have been able to retain their sensitivity and respond compassionately to the lives around them.

Next, have other civilizations been able to organize for the widest good? Organizations on Earth tend to be tribal. Despite the fact that all Earth-dwellers share the same habitat and are dependent on the same conditions for their existence, most of their organizations are directed against one another. There is no organization of the whole that is acting adequately in behalf of the human interest. The human species is intelligent in limited matters, but its efforts to organize for world peace are puny and incompetent.

Are there places in the universe where intelligent creatures are primed psychologically and philosophically more for peace than for war? Places where war has been eradicated and where the emphasis given to a decent existence has a clear priority over the emphasis given to instruments of mass annihilation?

Are there places in the universe where the development of the creative potentiality of the individual is a basic function of society? Where social justice does not have to be fought for every inch of the way but is a source of pride to those who administer it?

Are there places where people are strong enough to manifest tenderness and are brave enough to make known their trust? Places where people have no difficulty in finding precise words to convey their intent?

Are there places where intelligent creatures communicate without ultimatum, where compassion and conscience are more readily summoned than temper?

Does all this seem a bit idealistic? Perhaps so. But if there are places in the universe where people make genuine sense of their existence as a species and where they comprehend the delicate connections between the individual and collective existence, all the treasures on Earth would be a small price to pay for the clues.

The previous article has been reprinted, by request, from D&L #2, 11 Mar 77.

When 1977K or 1977CQ is completed, I would like to run a game of what I will call OPTIONAL DIPLOMACY. All the rules of regular Diplomacy will apply, except that, in Winter, 1900, players will choose their own units with which to start the game. For instance, Russia may opt to start the game with F StP(nc), or Germany may want to start with two fleets, and so on and so forth. Since Austria would be restricted in its choices however, I would have to come up with something special for that country. I think a game like that would be rather fun. It would certainly open things up and would require quite a bit of negotiating between players, especially at the start when players set their own initial forces.

It would even be a bit more realistic also. At the start of WW I, was Germany restricted to starting the war with only one naval fleet? If any of you would be interested in playing this, let me know and I will start building a lineup. For this game, country assignments would be determined by chance drawing.

SHARP IDEA IN FROZEN ALASKA

In Alaska mining exploration, a sprained ankle, and months of being laid up in camp resulted in the invention of the electric razor. Finding it difficult to shave in the 40-below temperatures, Jacob Schick set to work and finally came up with a razor that could do the job without lather, the "Schick Dry Shaver."